

"These beds [hammocks] (that wee omit nothing) when they have gathered filth either through humane sweat, or by the smoake, by reason of the con-[568]tinuall fire, are washed cleane after this manner. The women gather a certaine fruit in the woods, not much unlike in shape unto a plaine Gourd, but farre larger, so that every Apple may scarce bee borne with one hand: these fruits they cut into small pieces, and having cast them into some very great earthen vessell, they moisten them with water. Then, they vehemently stirre them about with a sticke, and cause a fume to arise from them, through the helpe whereof (in stead of Sope) they make their Beds so cleane, that in whitenesse they may be comparable with the Snowe, or Fullers Clothes. The use of such Beds is farre more commodious in watches, then that the Souldiers, after the accustomed manner, should tumble in Beds of grasse; for they both foule their garments, and get Lice, and that which is more, if they be to arise unto the fight, the bodie is bruised in some sort with the Armes, which Souldiers continually weare: which in the siege of the Citie Sancerra, we proved in good earnest: For the Enemie lay a whole yeere at our Ports."